

A STUDY ON GENDER INEQUALITY IN INDIA

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Gender is an important aspect of social and economic stratification. Regardless of one's socioeconomic class, there are gender differences in material well-being, although the degree of inequality varies across countries and over time. The importance of gender equality, women's empowerment and the realization of women's rights in achieving development has been increasingly recognized in recent decades and it has also been realized in India. Women play an equal role in every section of the society. A woman equally contributes to development of a nation as a man does.

Keywords: Gender Inequality, Women's Rights, development, women, discrimination, India.

Introduction

After independence in India one of the issues which has attracted the attention of the policy makers was gender issues and concerns. Gender issues have become central policy arena. The issues of gender equality and justice assumed added significance in the context of the interface between economic policy perceptions and gender relations. The gender equity became part of country's strategy for eradicating poverty and human misery. The policy makers are strongly believed that a genuine commitment to gender equality and equity will strengthen every area of action to reduce poverty because women can bring new energy and new insights. A lot of debate is going on women and development since last few decades. Several interventions had taken place both at national and international level leading to passing of several laws including law against physical violence IPC Section 498 (a) and Section 125 for maintenance. The importance of feminism has been steadily growing and gaining intellectual legitimacy.

Gender inequality is of versatile nature; one can observe its shadow in every sphere of human life. In relation to other forms of inequalities such as class, caste, race, etc., gender inequality is distinct; it dwells not only outside the household but also centrally within it. The phenomena of gender inequality and its manifold factors have been the subject matter of study in India and abroad. Though it is difficult to study all aspects of gender inequality, what follows gives a brief review of some of the studies connected with this subject.

Gender Inequality in Education

Education becomes an instrumental asset for low income rural women only when other assets and opportunities are also available. Improvement of women's access to education, and particularly their access to non-formal training and education, needs to be done in conjunction with improving their access to other assets and opportunities. Singh (2006)⁸¹ in his book described the role of education in empowering rural women. He analysed various development schemes for women's education and their impacts on rural women.